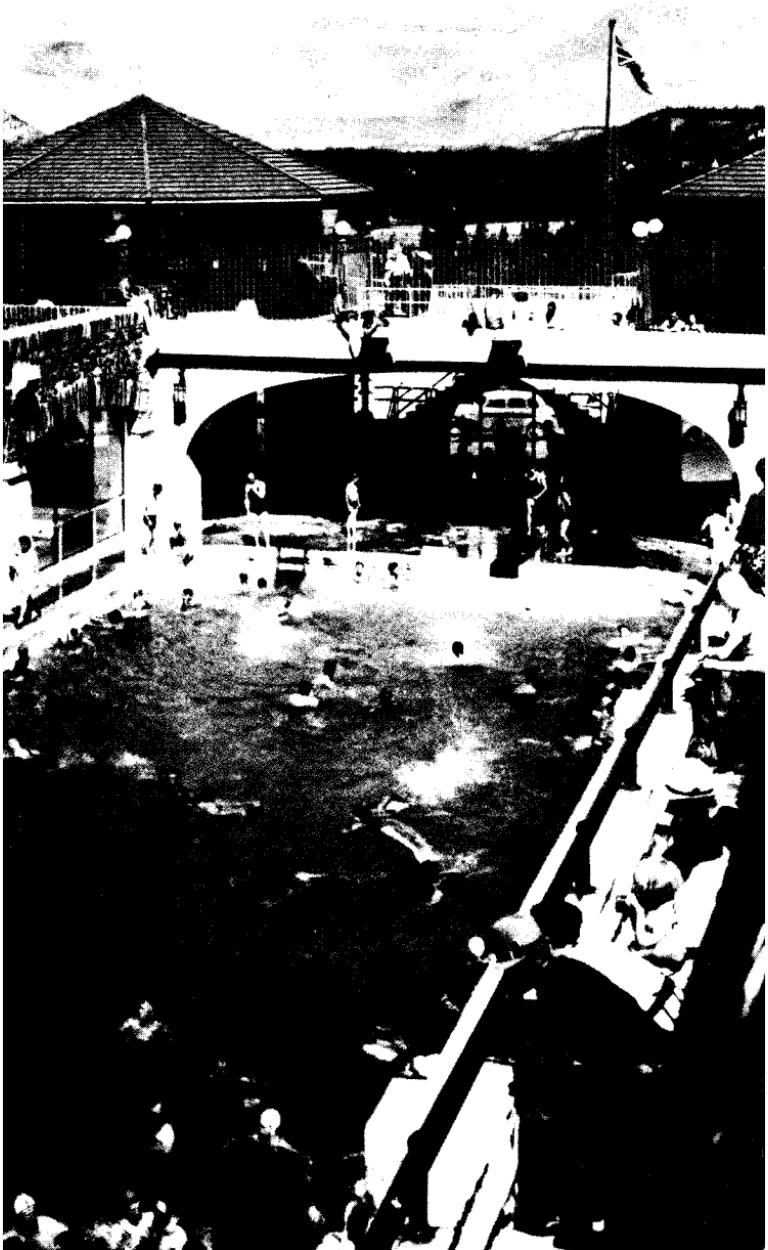


BANFF

NATIONAL PARK





Foreword

The National Parks of Canada are areas of natural beauty and special interest which have been "dedicated to the people of Canada for their benefit, education, and enjoyment". Established primarily for the preservation of the unspoiled natural landscape and for the protection of the native wildlife, they are to be "maintained and made use of so as to leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations".

The discovery of hot mineral springs bubbling from the slopes of Sulphur Mountain by engineers exploring the route for Canada's first trans-continental railway led to the establishment of Canada's first national park. From this small area of ten square miles at Banff, Alberta, set apart in 1885, the national parks system has been extended until it embraces 25 separate areas totalling some 29,660 square miles.

While a few parks have been devoted chiefly to the conservation of certain species of big game animals once threatened with extinction, others mark national historic sites important in the portrayal of Canada's colourful history. Still others have been developed for the greater convenience of park visitors to view the magnificent scenery and to relax in their enjoyment of such an inspirational and peaceful environment. From the sea-girt hills on the Atlantic Coast across the rivers and lakes of Central Canada to the alpine vistas of the Rockies and Selkirks, these national playgrounds provide ideal areas for nature study and for recreation.

It is the responsibility of the National Parks Bureau to administer these natural areas for the enjoyment of Canada's present and future generations. By progressive stages the parks have been made more easily accessible, wildlife scientifically managed, public services provided, and accommodation and recreational facilities expanded. A staff of experienced wardens keeps constant vigilance throughout these park areas to ensure the protection of the flora and fauna, as well as the safety and convenience of park visitors. Conservation of the forests, the flowers, and the natural wildlife is their chief concern, and the co-operation of all visitors in this important work is greatly appreciated.

In marking, preserving, and restoring sites of national and historic importance, the National Parks Bureau is advised by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, an honorary body of recognized historians representing various parts of the country. From Port Royal in Nova Scotia to Fort Prince of Wales on Hudson Bay, nine such sites are administered as National Historic Parks, and many other locations, rich in historical importance, are marked by cairns or bronze tablets.

Also of historical significance was the act of linking two great national parks in Alberta and Montana to be known as Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. Commemorating the peace which has existed for over 130 years between adjoining nations, this unspoiled area of natural beauty is symbolic of the goodwill engendered by these two great peoples.

The National Parks of Canada are part of a great national heritage, and under careful administration will continue as a perpetual asset—undiminished by use—for all future generations.

Visitors' Guide TO **BANFF NATIONAL PARK** **ALBERTA**

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

Banff National Park in Alberta contains an area of 2,585 square miles and is the oldest of Canada's national playgrounds. The original reservation of ten square miles was set apart in 1885, to preserve as a public possession the hot mineral springs discovered on the slopes of Sulphur Mountain by engineers engaged in the construction of the transcontinental line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The park lies along the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains, extending from the foothills on the east to the continental divide on the west. On the north it adjoins Jasper National Park, and on the west its boundaries are contiguous for many miles with those of Kootenay and Yoho National Parks.

Banff Park contains regions of majestic alpine grandeur. It embraces a veritable "sea of mountains", the ranges of which rise one behind the other in parallel lines, running generally from southeast to northwest. In the northern section of the park, straddling the great divide, is the vast Columbia Ice-Field—150 square miles in extent—a remnant of the Ice Age. This is only one of several ice-fields in the park.

Banff Park also contains the two world-famous resorts, Banff and Lake Louise, as well as many other beauty spots. Numerous motor roads and an extensive trail system radiating from Banff and Lake Louise provide access to some of the most exquisite scenery to be found anywhere in the Canadian Rockies.

HOW TO REACH THE PARK

Visitors to Banff National Park are well served by all up-to-date methods of transportation—rail, highway, and air.

Both the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Trans-Canada Highway run through the park and there is a landing field for light aircraft at the town of Banff. All necessary connections can be made conveniently through the principal railway, bus, or air lines who provide detailed information and prompt service.

Motorists en route to this park can enjoy the picturesque roadways of the Provinces of British Columbia and Alberta, or the States of Washington, Idaho, and Montana. Nearly all these main highways traverse areas of superlative scenic grandeur.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation in this park ranges from luxury hotels to modest cottages and camps. Unless visitors are carrying their own camping equipment it is advisable to arrange accommodation in advance. Lists of approved accommodation and agencies making reservations can be supplied upon request by the Government Information Bureau at Banff.

Located throughout the park are hotels, chalets, lodges, bungalows, and camps, offering varied types of accommodation. Many of these are in or near the townsite of Banff while others are situated at points of special interest on the Banff-Jasper or Banff-Windermere Highways. Additional accommodation is available within some private homes which offer rooms or small suites. Under the supervision of the park authority notices marked "Approved Accommodation" identify these locations.

ACCOMMODATION DETAILS

NAME	LOCATION	CAPACITY	DAILY RATES		DOUBLE
			SINGLE	DOUBLE	
*Banff Springs Hotel	Banff	600 rooms	\$8.00 up	\$11.00 up (E)	
Cascade Hotel	Banff	45 rooms	\$1 to \$1.50	\$2 to \$2.50 (E)	
*Homestead Hotel	Banff	50 rooms	\$1.50	\$2 (E)	
Hot Springs Hotel	Banff	22 rooms	\$5.00	\$28.00 weekly (A)	
King Edward Hotel	Banff	60 rooms	\$2 up (E) or \$4.25 up (A)	\$3 up (E) or \$7.50 up (A)	
Mount Royal Hotel and Annexes	Banff	115 rooms	\$2.50 up (E) or \$5 up (A)	\$4 up (E) or \$9 up (A)	
*Y.W.C.A.	Banff	45 rooms	\$1.25 up (E) or \$2.75 up (A)	\$1.50 up (E)	
*Becker's Bungalows No. 1	Banff	188 persons		\$4 up (E)	
*Becker's Bungalows No. 2	Banff	48 persons		Each extra person \$1	
*Scratch's Banff Bungalows	Banff	140 persons		4 persons \$9 (E)	
*Mountview Bungalows	Banff	78 persons		\$2.50 up (E)	
*Pinewood Bungalows	Banff	94 persons		Rates not available	
*Fairholme Bungalows	Banff	80 persons		Rates not available	
Sunshine Lodge	Sunshine Valley	108 persons	\$5.50 (A)	\$11 (A)	
*Johnston Canyon Bungalow Camp	Johnston Canyon	112 persons		\$35 weekly	
*Mt. Eisenhower Bungalow Camp	Mt. Eisenhower Forks.	50 persons		\$3 up (E)	
*Mt. Eisenhower Lodge	Mt. Eisenhower Forks.	112 persons	\$5.50 (A)	Each extra person \$1	
Mountain Inn	Lake Louise	10 rooms	\$1 up (E)	\$11 (A)	
*Mt. Temple View Bungalow Camp	Lake Louise	64 persons		\$35 weekly	
Lake Louise Ski Lodge	Lake Louise	40 persons	\$3 up (E)	\$3 to \$4 (E)	
*Chateau Lake Louise	Lake Louise	386 rooms	\$8.00 up	Each extra person \$1	
*Deer Lodge	Lake Louise	75 rooms	\$2.50 up	\$5.50 up (E)	
*Inglewood Lodge and Cabins	Lake Louise	23 persons	5.00 up	\$11 (A)	
*Triangle Inn	Lake Louise	7 rooms		\$4 up (E)	
*Paradise Bungalow Camp	Lake Louise	6 cabins (two persons)		\$4.50 up (E)	
Temple Lodge	Ptarmigan-Skoki Region	20 persons	\$6.50	Each extra person \$1	
Skoki Lodge	Ptarmigan-Skoki Region	35 persons	\$6	\$12 (A)	
*Moraine Lake Lodge and Cabins	Ptarmigan-Skoki Region	12 persons	\$6 up	\$10 (A)	
*Num-Ti-Gah Lodge	Banff-Jasper Highway	6 rooms	lodges \$7—	\$35 weekly	
Saskatchewan River	Banff-Jasper Highway	4 cabins	cabins \$5	\$12 (A)	
		30 persons		\$4 up (E)	
				\$3.50 up	
				Each extra person \$0.50 (E)	

(E) indicates European Plan (without meals) (A) indicates American Plan (with meals)

Note: Rates quoted are latest available, but may be subject to minor revision from time to time.
 (*) indicates summer season only.

CAMPING

Convenient public camp-grounds are laid out at ten different points throughout the park. The main one is at Tunnel Mountain near the eastern gate of Banff. It provides shelters, camp-stoves, tables, electric light, running water, and sanitary conveniences for the use of visitors with their own camping equipment. For each period of two weeks or less camping fees are \$1 for an ordinary tent. For automobile trailers the rate is \$0.50 for one day, \$1 for two days, and \$2 for any period over two days up to two weeks. Auto trailers have a special parking area where electrical plug-in facilities are available.

The other public camp-grounds (not all as fully equipped as at Tunnel Mountain) are found at Lake Minnewanka, Johnston Canyon, Mount Eisenhower, Lake Louise, Moraine Lake, on the Banff-Jasper Highway at Mosquito Creek (mile 53 from Banff), Bow Pass (mile 61), Waterfowl Lakes (mile 75), and the Castlelets (mile 103 from Banff). Camp-grounds are marked with a triangular outline on map.

TEA-HOUSES

Tea-houses are located at Lake Agnes and the Plain of Six Glaciers in the Lake Louise area, and on Sulphur Mountain near Banff.

GENERAL INFORMATION

REGISTRATION AND MOTOR LICENCES

All motorists entering Banff National Park must register and obtain transient motor licences as required by the regulations governing the use of national park roadways. For private automobiles a licence good for the full year in all national parks is \$2.00—or with cabin trailer attached, \$3.00. Special licences are issued for motor vehicles used for commercial purposes.

PARK ADMINISTRATION

Supervised by a resident Superintendent with headquarters in Banff, the park is administered by a staff of wardens in its various areas, assisted by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The Administration Building, just south of the Bow River bridge, contains the park offices as well as the Post Office. At the north end of the bridge a Government Information Bureau is maintained from May 15 to September 30 for the convenience of visitors. Here complete information on accommodation, recreation, and sightseeing may be obtained as well as literature and maps of the parks.

The townsite of Banff lies 44 miles east of the continental divide, has a permanent population of about 2,500, and is a year-round resort. As a progressive community it contains all the services customarily found in a modern town, and is the centre from which radiate varied activities into the many interesting areas of the park.

WILDLIFE PROTECTED

As the chief purposes of Canada's National Parks require that they be maintained in their natural state, all wildlife within their boundaries is rigidly protected. For this reason hunting and the possession of firearms are strictly prohibited. As the parks are game sanctuaries, visitors must not molest any wild animals or birds or their nests. Dogs or cats are not allowed in any national park except under special permission.

RECREATION

Banff National Park provides unique opportunities for outdoor recreation, quiet rest, and relaxation. Its primeval freshness contributes to the physical well-being of visitors, and its inspirational beauty stimulates aesthetic appreciation and artistic expression.

Arts and Crafts

The appreciation of arts and crafts has assumed new importance in Canada. Students from Halifax to Vancouver and from South America to Alaska are coming in ever-increasing numbers to combine creative work in the arts with delightful recreation in the Canadian Rockies. Since 1933 the Banff School of Fine Arts, an extension of the University of Alberta, has held summer courses in the vicinity of Banff, and has gained an international reputation.

Bathing and Swimming

The hot mineral springs, which were the primary attraction when Banff National Park was originally set apart for public use, are still its chief magnet.

There are several springs bubbling from the sides of Sulphur Mountain. So far two sites have been developed—Cave and Basin, just west of Bow River bridge, and the Upper Hot Springs, on the picturesque road on the mountain-side.

Bathing in the outdoor pools at Banff is regarded as one of the most pleasant and healthful recreations. At the Cave and Basin Springs there are two fine swimming pools and a modern building equipped with showers and rest rooms. Dressing rooms, for more than a hundred persons, extend along one side of the main pool. Spectators may view this

pool from wide terraces above. The two outdoor pools comfortably accommodate hundreds of bathers daily. Temperatures of the waters are usually around 90°F. The Upper Hot Springs establishment is well equipped with steam rooms, plunges, showers, and rest rooms for men, women, and children. The outdoor pool, which has a temperature of 112°F, is open summer and winter. Visitors coming to Banff to enjoy winter sports make good use of these hot mineral springs.

Splendid outdoor pools are also operated for the use of guests at Banff Springs Hotel and Chateau Lake Louise.

Boating and Canoeing

Boating and canoeing are popular at Banff, Lake Minnewanka, and Lake Louise, where boats and canoes may be hired. The quiet reaches of the Bow River, and Echo Creek particularly, offer delightful opportunities for viewing the panorama of peaks on both sides of the valley. Canoeists on Waterfowl Lake are often rewarded with views of moose and beaver in their native haunts.

Permission to operate motor propelled boats on park waters must be obtained from the Park Superintendent.

Climbing

It is only during the last half century that the Canadian Rockies have become such popular alpine centres. Mountaineers now come from all parts of the globe seeking "new heights to conquer". Endurance and skill are essential in mountain climbing, and few climbers are content until they have ascended some of the peaks. The sense of achievement in mastering a difficult summit and the view from its lofty pinnacle are compensation for a long, arduous climb. Many daring climbs have been recorded by the Alpine Club of Canada which has conducted annual camps in the Rockies for some years. Amateur climbers are well advised to secure competent guides and proper equipment before tackling the more difficult mountain terrain. There are still many unconquered peaks in the Canadian Rockies to challenge the expert mountaineer, and the beginner finds numerous climbs to test his skill and endurance.

Cycling

Cycling in Banff National Park has become one of the popular exercises for visitors. A bicycle is a great convenience in sightseeing in the park, since it can be used not only on the main park highways but on many of the fire roads and trails leading to exquisite scenic areas. Visitors arriving by train or bus may hire bicycles locally.

Fishing

Numerous lakes and streams throughout the park area afford first-rate angling. Consistent use of modern methods, including the operation of the Banff fish hatchery, has resulted in the maintenance of good fishing in many of the lakes in the park. More than one-third of the 150 lakes now available to the angler were originally barren of fish. These lakes, together with 20 mountain streams, offer the angler his choice of rainbow, lake, cutthroat, eastern brook trout and Dolly Varden, as well as Rocky Mountain whitefish. The wide variety of lake and stream conditions will satisfy the ambition of any angler, regardless of his experiences.

A fishing licence is required for all mountain national parks except Glacier and Mount Revelstoke, and is good in any of these parks during the season.

Up-to-date information regarding fishing in Banff Park waters is available in mimeographed form at the Government Information Bureau. The co-operation of anglers in completing creel census cards is appreciated.

A motorist registering at the park is accorded free fishing privileges for himself and family. Children under 16 are allowed to angle free if accompanied by the holder of a fishing licence.

As special fishing regulations are in force from time to time, visitors are requested to consult park officers concerning open waters, seasons catch limits, and the procuring of fishing licences.

Golf

The golf course in Banff National Park is 4,500 feet above sea level. All around it are towering mountains whose slopes are clad with dense forests up to the timber line. Undulating terrain, well-placed hazards, and tricky cross-winds make it one of the sportiest courses on the continent. The clubhouse, parking area, and first tee are a short distance from Banff Springs Hotel.

Hiking

The visitor to Banff Park who spends a few days hiking over trails once trod by Indians, missionaries, explorers, fur traders, and hunters not only finds a temporary escape from the hectic tempo of city life, but also has the opportunity of studying the prolific display of floral splendor, and the wild creatures in their native haunts. Picturesque areas easily accessible include the Upper Hot Springs, Sulphur Mountain, Tunnel Mountain, Mount Norquay, Stoney Squaw Mountain, Spray Valley, and Sundance Canyon—all in the immediate vicinity of Banff. The Sky Line Trail Hikers and the Canadian Youth Hostellers, two unique international organizations which have done much to encourage hiking in the Canadian Rockies, conduct annual excursions.

Motoring

Miles of park roads provide safe travel through the mountain valleys and over the passes. The section of the Trans-Canada Highway linking Calgary, Alberta, with Vancouver, British Columbia, crosses the park, and the Banff-Jasper Highway links the Trans-Canada with the Edmonton-Jasper Highway. Motor roads in the park also lead to Lake Minnewanka, Radium Hot Springs in Kootenay National Park, Moraine Lake, and numerous other beauty spots in this region of delightful scenic surprises. In fact, motorists in Banff National Park have access to some of the most magnificent mountain scenery in the world.

Photography

Visitors have excellent opportunities to catch nature's breath-taking beauty with a camera in the majestic Canadian Rockies. Devotees of colour photography are stimulated particularly by the marvellous colouring of the landscape, often reflected in placid mountain lakes.

Tennis

Tennis courts, just west of Bow River bridge, are available to the public, and there are other courts for the use of guests at Banff Springs Hotel and Chateau Lake Louise.

Trail Riding

For many years Banff has been one of the principal starting points in the Canadian Rockies for trail-riding expeditions. In this park there are nearly a thousand miles of trails leading to such places as Mount Assiniboine, Spray Lakes, Simpson Pass, Skoki Valley, Lake Louise, Lake O'Hara, Snow Creek, Harrison Lake, Panther River, the marvellous Red Deer Valley, and many other scenic regions. Since 1924 the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies, a Canadian society with a cosmopolitan membership, has been holding frequent rides in Banff National Park. Guides, pack-horses, mountain ponies, and supplies are available locally.

Winter Sports

Banff, one of the greatest summer playgrounds on the continent, is fast developing into a mecca for thousands of

visitors who are seeking recreational pleasure in the winter time. Winter sports include skiing, skating, curling, sleighing, tobogganing, and outdoor swimming in hot sulphur springs. The great variety of mountain terrain affords splendid powder snow conditions similar to those in the Alps. On the slopes of Mount Norquay, within five miles of Banff, are a spectacular ski-jump and downhill and slalom courses. Two ski-tows are in operation, and a ski lodge, with restaurant, is available to visitors.

The Ptarmigan-Skoki region, north of Lake Louise, is marvellous for alpine skiing, and accommodation is available at Temple Chalet, at the entrance to the Ptarmigan Valley, and at Skoki Lodge, six miles to the north. Transportation is available as far as Temple Chalet, which is five miles from Lake Louise. Sunshine Lodge, 14 miles southwest of Banff, is also situated in a magnificent skiing region near Simpson Pass. Transportation is available to the door of this lodge, which is a modern building with accommodation for more than one hundred persons. A ski-tow is among the recent improvements at Sunshine.

The post-war expansion of facilities for the enjoyment of winter and spring activities in Banff National Park is further indication of the acceptance of the "any-season" vacation movement.

SIGHTSEEING

The majority of visitors to Banff National Park expect to do some sightseeing during their sojourn in the mountains. Few have time to cover the whole park in one visit, but all are anxious to see some of its most brilliant scenic gems, about which they have heard so much. Many memorable scenes, easily reached by motor road, can be added to "the beautiful pictures that hang on memory's wall", even during a brief stay in the park.

A delightful short trip might embrace a number of places of special attraction in the immediate vicinity of the TOWN OF BANFF. It is difficult to describe adequately the superb scenic setting of BANFF, but it is impossible to be unmoved by its irresistible charm. Within view of this famous mountain resort, nestled in the green valley of the BOW RIVER, are several good-sized mountains—CASCADE, RUNDLE, NORQUAY, AYLMER, STONEY SQUAW, and SULPHUR. Peeping out from behind these are scores of glittering peaks beckoning, as it were, to the visitor. A motor tour of this area might also include such popular places as SUNDANCE CANYON, the GOLF COURSE, BOW FALLS, UPPER HOT SPRINGS, the WILD ANIMAL PADDOCK, the FISH HATCHERY, and those weird examples of nature's sculpture, the HOODOOS—to mention only a few nearby places of interest.

For the motorist bent on seeing more of this world-renowned mountain playground a visit to LAKE MINNEWANKA, meaning lake of the water-spirit, reached by way of the CASCADE RIVER, or to lovely LAKE LOUISE, extolled in song and verse and the inspiration of artists and nature lovers, would be well worth while. On the road to LAKE LOUISE the motorist may explore the JOHNSTON CANYON, with its high rocky walls and tumbling waterfalls. A short distance beyond the canyon the road branches to the south. This is the BANFF-WINDELMERE HIGHWAY leading to KOTENAY NATIONAL PARK through the rugged scenery of VERMILION PASS and MARBLE CANYON, and on to the popular RADIUM HOT SPRINGS; or from LAKE LOUISE one may take the road to the west through KICKING HORSE PASS across the Great Divide into YOHO NATIONAL PARK. YOHO, an Indian exclamation meaning wonderful, is everything that the name implies. This veritable mountain fairyland, redolent of the fragrance of trees and flowers, adorned with glaciers, waterfalls, lakes, and streams, casts a magic spell about the visitor and leaves him breathless with wonder and delight.

A shorter motor trip from LAKE LOUISE is the road to MORAINA LAKE in the wild and beautiful VALLEY OF THE TEN PEAKS. Along the south shore of this remarkable lake there is a semi-circle of lofty peaks, originally bearing the names of the ten numerals of the Stoney Indian language.

Here will be found some of nature's greatest masterpieces in a setting so wonderful that it is beyond description.

Longest and perhaps the most exciting motor trip in the park is over the BANFF-JASPER HIGHWAY, an interpark motor road built along the trench of the Rockies. The road follows in turn the Bow, MISTAYA, NORTH SASKATCHEWAN, SUNWAPTA, and ATHABASKA RIVERS and discloses some of the most outstanding alpine scenery in the world. It skirts the great COLUMBIA ICE-FIELD and at one point passes within a few hundred feet of the cool tongue of ATHABASKA GLACIER. Not only is this road of great scenic interest, but the territory through which it passes contains abundant wildlife including many big game species native to the Rockies.

FAUNA AND FLORA

Animals and Birds—One of the greatest attractions of Banff Park is its wildlife. Within its boundaries will be found specimens of nearly all big game animals native to the Rocky Mountains, many of which may be seen from the park trails and even from the highways. Included are Rocky Mountain sheep—the picturesque "bighorn"—Rocky Mountain goat, elk, moose, mule deer, black, brown, and grizzly bear, cougar, and coyote. Among the smaller mammals found are the Columbian ground squirrel or picket-pin gopher, mantled ground squirrel which looks like a large chipmunk, yellow-haired porcupine, snowshoe rabbit, red squirrel, marten, muskrat, pika, and hoary marmot or "whistler." Beaver are also numerous, particularly in the vicinity of Banff.

Birds are abundant in the park. More than 100 species are found in numbers and are either migrants or common residents. Among the most interesting are the golden eagle, white-tailed ptarmigan, magpie, Clarke's crow, Canada jay, rufous hummingbird, Franklin's grouse or "fool-hen," mountain bluebird, western tanager, and Townsend's solitaire. Many other song-birds and birds of brilliant plumage may also be observed during the summer months.

Trees and Flowers—The forests of Banff Park form one of its most beautiful physical features. The lodgepole pine is the most abundant species, and white and black spruce, balsam fir, Engelmann spruce, Douglas fir, limber or Rocky Mountain pine, Lyall's larch, white birch, Alpine fir, and aspen or poplar are found in the park. Many varieties of shrubs also grow on the mountain slopes.

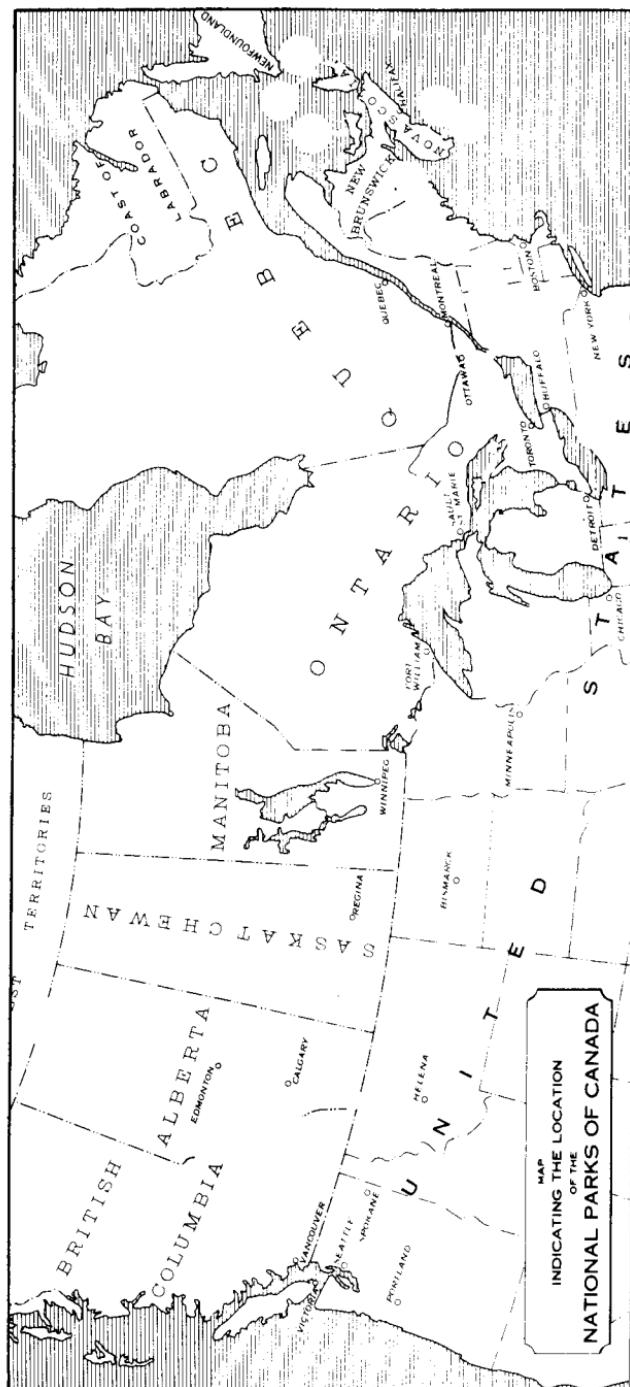
The wild flowers of the park are a revelation to the visitor, clothing the valleys and alpine slopes in a riot of colour. More than 500 varieties have been identified in the Rocky Mountains, and they are found even on high passes, near the snow line, blooming in waves of blue, rose, white, and yellow. Among the best known species are larkspur, violet, columbine, Indian paint brush, alpine anemone, harebell, snow lily, gentian, aster, everlasting, mountain heather, hellebore, saxifrage, dryas, vetch, wintergreen, and fireweed.

FIRE PREVENTION

Visitors are requested to co-operate with park officers in the prevention of fires. Matches, cigarette butts, pipe ashes, and other smoking materials should be completely extinguished before being thrown away, and then dropped only on bare soil.

Camp-fires may be kindled only at places provided for the purpose, and must be completely extinguished before being left. Persons using the park trails unaccompanied by a licensed guide should acquaint themselves with the park's regulations, and secure particulars concerning suitable camp-sites and other related information. Parties making extended trips into park areas from railroads or park highways should register with the district warden or the chief warden of Banff National Park.

Any fire observed by a park visitor should be extinguished if possible. Fires which cannot be put out promptly should be reported to the nearest park officer. A fire in a national park may cause damage which cannot be replaced in a hundred years. Forest fires are among the greatest enemies of the parks.



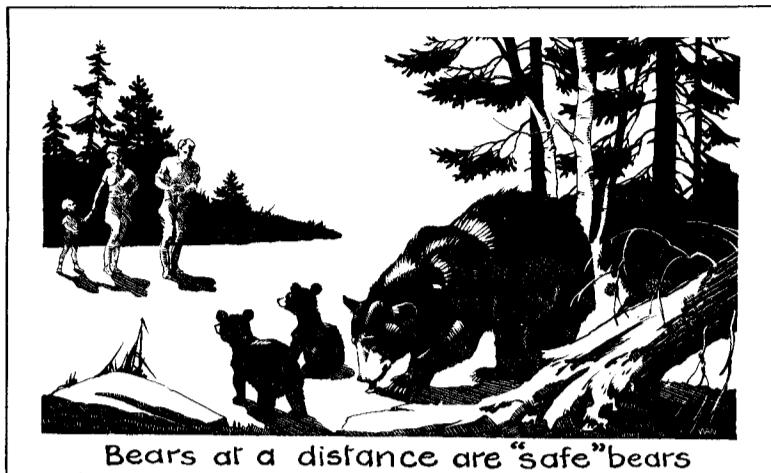
COMPILED AND DRAWN AT THE OFFICE OF THE SURVEYOR GENERAL OTTAWA, 1947

NATIONAL PARKS BUREAU

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND FORESTS BRANCH
LANDS, PARKS AND FORESTS BRANCH

OTTAWA, CANADA

Don't Blame the Bears!



our visitors that National Parks are no zoological gardens; there are no iron bars. Therefore, be careful to leave bears and other large wild animals alone.

Accidents occur when the indifference of wild animals to man breaks down. It can do this in either of two ways. If for any reason a wild animal becomes afraid for its own safety, that of its young, or even that of its stored food, it becomes dangerous, because in the agony of its fear it may be led to attack rather than to retreat. The interests of safety demand that we avoid actions that might cause such behaviour on the part of any animal. It is a matter of common decency also.

In the "back country" lives the grizzly bear, most powerful of our wild animals. In country where grizzlies live we should always watch for them, always give them the right of way, and never approach them. The anxiety of a mother grizzly for her young is a fearful thing, but it is surely not blameworthy.

The indifference of animals to man also breaks down when they are fed. Most animals are not fond of our kind of food. Black and cinnamon bears, however, are. A free wild bear can become completely demoralized by human feeding in a very short time. Any fed bear is more dangerous than a wild free-living bear. This is because indifference is gone and the fed bears look on humans as sources of food. They often become resentful if it is not forthcoming. Feeding a bear means in most cases that its death warrant is signed. Some bears fed by humans last a long time, but others get into trouble in a few days and have to be killed or removed in order to protect the public. The policy of the National Parks Service is that visitors to the parks should never feed bears, because any such feeding may result in a demoralized and degenerate bear that is well on the way to becoming a criminal.

Wild animals in the parks must be treated with full respect. Persons who travel in the parks do so at their own risk. There is more to it than that, however. No true friend of wild animals would wish to harm them, and it can truthfully be said that artificial feeding of powerful wild animals is sure to result in serious harm or death to them.

Do not feed the bears or
try to be intimate with them!

Issued by the
NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE
Ottawa, Canada

In National Parks wild animals run around in complete freedom, and are often seen near the principal roads and recreation areas. This is true of such large creatures as moose, elk, deer, and bears, as well as of smaller animals like gophers and porcupines that may be found anywhere. Secure from harm, they become more or less indifferent to the presence of man.

Although they have learned to pay no attention to man, the larger animals are still strong and very active, and are capable of injuring or even killing humans. It is because distressing accidents have occurred that we wish to remind

